

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated July 13, 2004, Claims 1-64 are pending. Claims 47 and 55-57 are allowed, and the Examiner has indicated that Claims 4-8, 19, 22, and 30-34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claims 9, 12-16, 21, 23-25, 37-46, 48-54, and 58-64 were previously withdrawn and are now cancelled. The remaining Claims 1-3, 10, 11, 17, 18, 20, 26-29, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of U.S. Patent Nos. 3,722,497 to Hiestand, et al., 5,477,596 to Schlosstein, et al., 5,016,359 to Nagaoka, et al., 5,635,833 to Onodera, et al., 6,095,728 to Howie, 4,422,384 to Johnson, et al., 2,921,492 to Worth, 6,158,666 to Banks, et al., 3,722,711 to Seidel, and 5,718,545 to Husted.

Each of the claims, as amended above, has been previously allowed or includes all of the limitations of a claim that was previously indicated to be allowable. Therefore, Applicant submits that each of the claims is now allowable and no new issues are raised.

In particular, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 4, which was previously indicated to be allowable, and Claim 4 is cancelled. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 as amended is allowable, as are Claims 2-3, 5-8, 10-11, 17-20, 22, and 26-36, which depend from Claim 1.

New Claim 65 includes each of the limitations of Claim 19, including the base claims. Claim 19 was previously indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including any base claims. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claim 65 is allowable, as are Claims 66-74, which depend from Claim 65 and include limitations previously set forth in the various pending claims that are dependent on Claim 1.

New Claim 75 includes each of the limitations of Claim 22, including the base claims. Claim 22 was previously indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including any base claims. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claim 75 is allowable, as are Claims 76-88, which depend from Claim 75 and include limitations previously set forth in the various pending claims that are dependent on Claim 1.

New Claim 89 includes each of the limitations of Claim 30, including the base claims. Claim 30 was previously indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including

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any base claims. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claim 89 is allowable, as are Claims 90-96, which depend from Claim 89 and include limitations previously set forth in the various pending claims that are dependent on Claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-11, 17-20, 22, 26-36, 47, 55-57, and 65-96 are allowable.

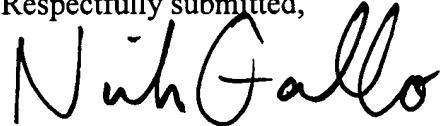
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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the remarks presented above, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



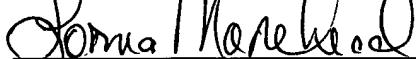
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 10, 2004.



Lorna Morehead

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